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'Companions' Have Alibis

The Missing Doctor Mystery

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WASHINGTON.

Three "disreputable" Dutchmen who may hold the key to the nine-day disappearance of an internationally prominent Washington research doctor were located yesterday by Dutch police, the Herald Tribune learned last night.

But each of them, according to Chief Inspector Piet Landman, of the Amsterdam police, accounted for his whereabouts on the early morning of Sunday, Dec. 5, the day Dr. Richard H. Follis, 56, the world's top nutritional pathologist, dropped out of sight without a trace.

One of the men, Inspector Landman said, proved that he was in Germany at the time he and the two others were reported to have left a low-class Amsterdam night club at the same time as the missing doctor.

The other two proved to the satisfaction of the police that they were nowhere near the night club that morning, the inspector said.

The report about the three men came from the doorman of the Moulin Rouge night club who, Inspector Landman said, "mixed up a Wednesday night with a Sunday morning."

The apparent clearing the three men—whom Amsterdam police had regarded as prime suspects in what could have been a robbery and murder by

Dutch thugs—has further confused an already baffling case.

Chief Inspector Landman continued yesterday to say that Dr. Follis fell into one of Amsterdam's many shallow canals after what several witnesses described as "an evening of very heavy drinking."

The European press, however, continues to speculate that Dr. Follis was engaged in intelligence work, probably for the Central Intelligence Agency.

Almost everyone connected with the case except Inspector Landman says that if the doctor fell into the canal his body should have been found days ago—especially since extensive dragging was undertaken by the police.

The dragging of the sluggish, six-foot-deep canals near the doctor's hotel and the Moulin Rouge has been fruitless.

The doctor's wife Edith, who lives in Washington, and the State Department said yesterday that the suggestion of undercover activities by Dr. Follis is far afield.

State Department Press Officer Robert McCloskey told reporters: "I would have no reason to suspect he was (with CIA)."

Mrs. Follis, in a brief telephone conversation, said, "I cannot imagine my husband being interested in espionage or anything of that sort. He is completely dedicated to medicine."

Aside from that comment, Mrs. Follis said she was told

to refer all press calls to Dr. Follis' superiors at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology or the National Institutes of Health. She would not say why she was told to do so.

Dr. Follis, said his superiors, stopped off in Amsterdam on his way to an international conference on nutrition now going on in Tehran. He was supposed to arrive in Iran last Tuesday, but he has not been seen or heard from since a man, police say was the doctor walked out of the night club about 3 a. m. Dec. 5.

The last man to speak at length to Dr. Follis, Inspector Landman said, was Dr. H. A. P. C. Comen, a Dutch nutrition expert in vitamin A, who met the doctor at Amsterdam's Royal Tropical Medical Institute at 11 a. m. Dec. 3.

Dr. Oomen, said Washington doctors in the nutrition field, was perhaps the last Dutch research doctor to rise of President Sukarno.

The two doctors had met in Hawaii three years ago.

Between the time Dr. Follis left Dr. Oomen's office and his disappearance, Inspector Landman said "there were two long, intoxicated nights" and then "probably an accident in which he fell into a canal and drowned."

The Amsterdam police were called into the case after Dr. Andreas Querida, of Leiden University, became worried when Dr. Follis did not show up for an appointment at noon Dec. 6.

Dr. Follis' colleagues insist that the reports of intoxication are "astonishing" and "completely out of character for a man who is a seasoned traveler and a sober man."

While his friends admit that a man can, now and then, have a liquid week end, even Dutch police officials say it is "unusual" for a man to buy drinks for every one in a bar, as the police say witnesses have reported.

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